



barrio logan COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

Stakeholders Committee

Meeting #1

April 15, 2008

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

On April 15, 2008, members of the Stakeholders Committee (Committee) of the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update process convened in the first meeting. The purpose of the meeting was: (a.) to introduce the project purpose, background, process and planning team; (b.) to introduce Committee members and the Committee's purpose, charge, ground rules, policies and meeting structure; (c.) to discuss Committee members' desired outcomes and expectations for the planning process, as well as their community values; and (d.) to review and discuss community outreach activities, methods and tools.

BACKGROUND

The City of San Diego is updating the Barrio Logan Community Plan (BLCP)—one of over 40 such plans in the City—through an in-depth, community-based planning process that will engage the broadest possible range of stakeholders. Part of the Land Use Element of the City's General Plan, the BLCP is a long-range, physical development guide that includes tailored policies for implementing the General Plan in the community. The updated BLCP will convey community goals, objectives and recommendations with an emphasis on sustainable design principles and policies, all of which will be clearly outlined in an illustrative, graphically based, action oriented planning document. Specifically, the BLCP will include the following elements:

- Land Use and Community Planning
- Mobility
- Urban Design
- Economic Prosperity
- Public Facilities, Services and Safety
- Recreation
- Historic Preservation
- Noise
- Housing

- Implementation

Stakeholders Committee

The Committee membership is representative of the diverse interests and various geographic sections of the community with 25 voting members and 8 ex-officio non-voting members composed as follows (number of seats in parentheses):

Voting Members

- Residential Tenant Seats (5)
- Residential Property Owner Seats (3)
- Non-Residential Property Owner Seats (3)
- Commercial Business Owner Seats (4)
- Industrial Representative/Owner Seats (3)
- Non-Profit/Community Organization Seats (7)

Non-Voting Members

- San Diego Unified Port District (1)
- San Diego Unified School District (1)
- Centre City Development Corporation (1)
- United States Navy (1)
- Southeastern San Diego Planning Committee (1)
- San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) (1)
- Caltrans (1)
- San Diego Community College District (1)

MEETING FORMAT

The first Committee meeting occurred on April 15, 2008, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 1625 Newton Avenue in San Diego. Upon entering the meeting facility, Committee members and community members signed-in and received an agenda, process graphic, comment form, and fact sheet regarding the Brown Act. All meeting handouts, presentation materials and displays included English and Spanish languages. The proceedings included simultaneous translation of English and Spanish languages, and attendees could utilize headset equipment to hear the proceedings in Spanish language as interpreted by professional translators on hand.

In addition to attending Committee members, approximately 110 community members attended the meeting. Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Ben Hueso initiated the meeting with welcoming remarks. Bill Anderson, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Land Use and Development, followed with welcoming remarks and general information about the update process for the BLCP. Project Manager Lara Gates then provided a more detailed description of the project including

background, process, other planning efforts, schedule and the planning team.

Esmeralda García of MIG, Inc., Project Manager for the consultant team that is leading the planning process, served as meeting facilitator and presented information about the Committee's purpose and charge, ground rules for the meetings, communication protocols, meeting format and structure, and community involvement activities. After the discussion portion of the meeting and before adjournment, Committee members introduced themselves.

During the discussion portion of the meeting, Andy Pendoley of MIG and Rocio Casco of Estrada Land Planning recorded attendees' comments in English and Spanish languages on a large wallgraphic paper at the front of the room, which is attached as a photo-reduced copy at the end of this summary report.

Facility and Equipment

During the aforementioned welcoming remarks and presentations, some facility and meeting equipment problems became apparent. These included issues with:

- Translation equipment;
- Room lighting; and
- Sound.

Ms. Gates acknowledged the issues described and explained that the translation equipment and room lighting had worked properly prior to the meeting. Nevertheless, she expressed the team's commitment to remedy the situation.

DISCUSSION

Ms. García asked Committee members to discuss their desired outcomes and expectations for the planning process. She also asked audience members to provide comments and questions after hearing from Committee members, though some audience members spoke before then. During the discussion, Chris Beynon, of MIG, Principal-in-Charge of the consultant team, also provided facilitation and responses to comments and questions from Committee members and audience members.

Improve the facility and equipment

A number of Committee members and audience members expressed anger and frustration that the meeting facility and equipment appeared to be substandard or insufficient. As alternatives, some Committee members suggested using other community facilities including Barrio Station or Perkins Elementary School, but other Committee members attendees expressed concern that these other facilities are not considered to be "neutral" by some community members. At least one Committee member suggested that the current facility might be adequate pending improvements to the translation, lighting and sound equipment.

Clarify the deliberation and decision-making processes

Committee members expressed frustration that the discussion format did not clearly outline how Committee members would engage each other, how Committee members would reach decisions, and how public comment would be integrated into the meeting. Mr. Beynon responded that all of these process points would be clarified in greater detail at the next Committee meeting.

Additional comments and questions

Committee members and audience members also discussed a range of other comments and questions.

- Avoid wasting time—move forward and focus on the community's needs
- Be inclusive—allow the public to speak more frequently at Committee meetings
- Develop short-term improvements—the community has waited a long time for change
- Allow for a flexible timeline and process that suits the community
- Do not dictate to the community—allow for a community-driven process
- Explain how the next meeting's agenda will be modified
- Trust but verify—allow the process to unfold, but closely monitor to ensure transparency
- Provide urban renewal without eminent domain

MOTIONS

Committee members offered two motions for vote as follows:

- Convene the next Committee meeting at Barrio Station (15-ayes)
- Improve the current meeting facility (5-ayes)
- 2 abstentions

NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

Mr. Beynon closed the meeting by reiterating that the planning team would work to improve all of the aforementioned deliberation, decision-making and facility issues. Overall, he expressed his commitment to ensuring that the planning process is open, inclusive and productive, leading to a community-based plan and outcomes based on the community's vision and needs.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nine community members in attendance submitted written comments via comment cards provided at the registration table. The following is a summary of the comments: The meeting was disjointed; The meeting space was not adequate; The meetings should be held in a public setting, such as Perkins Elementary School; the translation needs to be simultaneous so that the meetings don't take longer than they need to be. The comment cards are on file at the City of San Diego and are available for viewing during normal office hours. Please contact Lara Gates at 619-236-6006 to set up a time to view the actual cards.

